S/N: 10/644,347 Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2005

## **Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 2, at line 26 as shown below:

The present invention overcomes the problems encountered in the prior art by providing a method of dispersing cyclodextrins into a base polymer. The method of the invention comprises reacting a grafted microfine polymer powder with a cyclodextrin to form a cyclodextrin-attached grafted polymer; and dispersing the cyclodextrin-attached grafted polymer in the base polymer. The term "microfine" is intended to describe polymers that have particle sizes ranging from about 1 micron to about 500 microns, but with a wide range of morphologies. The preferred particles are spherical in nature. Typically, the microfine particles are such that 80 percent or more of the particles range in size from about 10 up to However, the particle shapes can vary from spherical to oblong to about 500 microns. irregular. The small particle size of the grafted microfine polymer powder ensures intimate mixing with the cyclodextrin and reduced agglomeration in the final product. By mixing the two powders this way, one obtains a uniform, high concentration of reactive groups (i.e., grafted maleic anhydride and hydroxyl on the cyclodextrin) in the melt. This maximizes the reaction between the two and grafts cyclodextrin onto the base polymer backbone. As the cyclodextrin-attached grafted polymer is blended into the base polymer, it carries the cyclodextrin with it and disperses it evenly throughout the polymer. In contrast, when feeding cyclodextrin powder to a melt containing both graft and base polymer, one obtains a high local concentration of cyclodextrin but low concentration of the grafted polymer.